

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee

The 5th meeting was held at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1, on Thursday 8th December 1960 at 2.30.p.m.

Present: Professor J.A.V. Butler (Chairman)
Professor D.D. Eley
Dr. L.H. Gray
Professor A.F. Huxley
Professor J.T. Randall
Sir Gordon Sutherland
Dr. P.M.B. Walker (Treasurer)
Dr. J.C. Kendrew (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor R.D. Preston, Dr. J.W.S. Pringle and Professor F.J.W. Roughton.

1. Arising from the minutes of the last meeting, the Committee decided that paragraph 5(2) in those minutes should be replaced by the following sentence.

"The Committee would decide in each case to what extent the funds of the Society should be made available for informal meetings".

2. Joint British Meeting for Electron Microscopy. The Secretary was asked to write to Dr. V.E. Cosslett, Chairman of this Committee, to ask if the Society could be represented on the Committee.

3. Membership. The Treasurer reported that so far there had been a hundred and eighty three applications for membership, and that new applications were coming in at the rate of five to ten a day. It was decided that a Sub-committee, consisting of the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary, should scrutinize lists of prospective members; and that these lists should be circulated to the Committee at intervals.

4. Honorary Member. On the suggestion of Professor Randall, it was decided that the Committee would propose the election of Professor A.V. Hill, F.R.S. to Honorary Membership of the Society, at the first meeting. This proposal would be subject to Professor Hill's agreement, which would be sought by the Secretary.

5. December Meeting. Professor Randall reported that so far a hundred and seventy seven members and others had asked to attend the meeting, seventy-one of these also wishing to attend the dinner. Twenty-three requests for accommodation had been received. A draft programme of the meeting is attached to these minutes and the final version would be circulated to the membership within a few days, together with abstracts of the papers to be presented. This programme, and the social arrangements for the meeting, were approved by the Committee, which expressed its thanks to Professor Randall and Dr. Burge.

6. Meetings Secretary. On the nomination of Professor Butler, and seconded by Dr. Kendrew, Professor Eley was elected Meetings Secretary of the Steering Committee.

7. Future Meetings.

a. Informal Meetings

- i. Phosphatide meeting. Professor Eley reported on the arrangements for this meeting. It would be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Biochemical Society on Friday, 6th October, 1961; the British Biophysical Society meeting would take place on the previous day. The meeting would be organized by Dr. B. Saunders, and the Chairman would be Professor Eley. It was decided that money would not be made available from British Biophysical Society funds for travel expenses of speakers.
- ii. Meeting on Radiation Damage. Dr. Gray reported that this meeting would now take place on 3rd & 4th July, 1961 at Saclay. It would be organized by Professor Butler and Dr. Gray in conjunction with Professor Magat.

b. Formal Meetings

The following offers of hospitality were considered by the Committee.

1. Birmingham University (from Dr. Finean)
2. Edinburgh University (from Professor Swann)
3. Nottingham University (from Professor Eley)
4. Cambridge University (from Dr. Kendrew)

The Meetings Secretary was instructed to ^{try to} arrange meetings as follows.

July 1961 - Nottingham
December 1961 - Birmingham
April 1962 - Edinburgh
September 1962 -- Cambridge

With regard to the first of these meetings, Professor Eley suggested that the date might be 20th July, and that he would try to arrange symposia on translocation and on electron and energy transfer.

8. Biological and Medical Abstracts Limited. The Secretary reported that he had received a suggestion from Biological and Medical Abstracts Limited for the British Biophysical Society to become one of its Constituent Societies. The Secretary was instructed to reply that the Committee preferred to defer its decision on this matter until the Society was properly constituted.

9. Journal of Molecular Biology. The Secretary reported that it might be possible to arrange for members of the British Biophysical Society to take out subscriptions to this Journal at a reduced rate. He was asked to try to arrange this with the publishers, but it was agreed that there should be no question of affiliating the Journal to the British Biophysical Society, or of publishing abstracts of meetings in it.
10. International Organization.
- a. Sir Gordon Sutherland indicated that it was important for the Society to define its attitude towards the international organization of biophysics before the International Meeting in Stockholm in August. It was decided that the Committee would discuss this policy at a special Committee meeting to be held after March, so that the issues could be presented to the membership at the meeting of the Society probably to be held at Nottingham in July.
- b. International Meeting in Stockholm. Sir Gordon Sutherland made a report on the arrangements for this meeting (programme attached to minutes). The Secretary reported that Dean & Dawson Ltd. had approached him with regard to reduced rates of travel to Stockholm. It was agreed to inform the members at the December meeting that such arrangements could be made, and to invite them to communicate directly with Dean & Dawson, all administrative arrangements to be made by Dean & Dawson Ltd.
11. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place at 5.30.p.m. (or as soon as possible thereafter) in Professor Randall's office at King's College, London on Monday, 19th December.

J.M. Sutherland